LEMIRE • PERALTA • ROSENBERG

THANOS®

MARVEL #7

A total obsession with power drives him — to control the forces of the universe.
He is the Mad Titan. He is…

THANOS

Thanos is dying. Searching for a cure, he has raged across the universe, but found no succor. Many across time and space would gladly see Thanos dead, including his son, Thane. Under the guidance of Death, Thane betrayed his former allies, Starfox, Nebula, and Tryco Slatterus, in order to harness the power of the Phoenix Force and exact total revenge upon his father.

Using the Phoenix Force, Thane blasted Thanos with all the rage and power at his disposal, then usurped his father's throne, cursing Thanos to eke out his remaining days as a mortal. The Mad Titan is no more.

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THE RUINS OF TITAN.
FOUR WEEKS AGO.
THWUMP
SCREEEE!

KRKT
KRKT
KRKT

SCREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

SCREEEEEEE!
GUH!
ARRRGHHH!
THUNK

THUNK
SCREEEE!
THUNK

UNGH.

NO!

WELL, WELL, WELL...

...YOU AIN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE.
NO ONE'S SUPPOSED TO BE HERE. THIS IS OUR TERRITORY.
...YOUR... TERRITORY?
THIS...IS... MY WORLD.

WE SCAVENGE HERE, PAL!
WHAP
GIVE YOU ONE CHANCE TO WALK OUT OF HERE ON YOUR OWN.
YOU GIVE...ME A CHANCE? DO YOU...NOT KNOW WHO I AM?
I...AM... THANOS!
YEAH, SURE YOU ARE, PAL. AND I'M THE LEGENDARY STAR-LORD!
CRACK

DID YA HEAR WHAT I SAID, BIV? I SAID, "SURE, AND I'M THE LEGENDARY STAR-LORD!"
I HEARD YA. GOOD ONE, TIV.
LET'S SEE WHAT "THANOS" THE GREAT HAS IN HIS PACK.
MUGRAT MEAT.
GODS, WHO WOULD EAT THAT FILTH?
HUH. WHAT'S THIS?
KINDA METAL IS THAT MADE OF?
DON'T KNOW, BUT IT LOOKS EXPENSIVE. THINK WE SCORED, TIV.

WHATTA YOU THINK, TIV? SUITS ME, HUH?
HA HA! HATE TO SAY IT, BUT YOU DO KINDA LOOK LIKE THANOS NOW, BIV.
WAIT, BIV... YOU DON'T THINK...?
HA HA! YEAH RIGHT, TIV!
YEAH, RIGHT!
CRACK
UNGH!

FEOSH
DON'T KNOW, BUT IT CAN'T BE GOOD. RUN, BIV!
THE HELL?

FIDOOM

SO, I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY GOING TO SAY THIS, BUT...
...THANOS, WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE.
NEXT: UNHOLY ALLIANCE!

THANOS

And now you've been introduced to mugrats, Thanosthusiasts, and the universe will never be the same. Did you all enjoy this nearly silent issue as much as we did? If not, there's more dialogue in #8, and more TYPES of dialogue! I KNOW that's why you buy the comics! On to your letters!

Howdy, Bullpen! (Am I really that old...Yes.)

It's so great to see The Mad Titan back at it again. I'm loving Jeff Lemire's writing, and as always enjoying Deodato and Martin's artwork. The shocker in issue #2 when Thanos, after years of torturing his father, finally killed Mentor: brilliant. He must really be ill to destroy his plaything like that. Keep up the great work and as always, Make Mine Marvel. (Yup, still old.)

Glad you're enjoying the book! And hey, Marvel's Bullpen is alive and well, doing design work on many of our books--although letterer Clayton Cowles designed the recap and letters page for THANOS--and making tiny last-minute fixes on comics the week they go to print--although not on THANOS, because it's perfect every time.

I've been in and out of comics all my life, but it wasn't until I read ANNIHILATION through REALM OF KINGS that I completely re-immersed myself in the comic book world. I was fascinated by cosmic Marvel and couldn't research enough on the big and small players of that universe. To be frank though, I've felt that since those events, cosmic Marvel has lost a lot of its touch and has ofttimes thrown away the personalities and storylines established in those events...until THANOS.

The team has seriously brought back the magic that I first experienced when diving into cosmic Marvel and has not held back. In three issues you kill off Corvus Glaive and the Mentor?! Amazing. Tryco, Thane, Starfox, and Nebula team-up? Fantastic. Thanos slowly dying in a similar fashion to Captain Marvel? Sweet irony. Most important though, the inclusion of my all-time favorite Marvel character Kallark (Gladiator) definitely tops the list. AND it all looks SO good! I am ecstatic to see where this story builds and runs, to re-experience the characters that anchored my passion for the comic book medium.

Keep up the grand work!
Aaron Bettinger
Phoenix, AZ

Hey, Aaron! That WAS a great Kallark moment in issue #3! Seeing him sitting and reflecting quietly felt like a nice change of pace. Are you caught up on MIGHTY THOR as well? Gladiator's made some big moves in the Asgard/Shi'ar War!

Hi!

First of all, the latest issue while I'm writing is still THANOS #2, so apologies if anything I'm about to ask or say is moot by the point you actually receive this. That said, I loved the confrontation with Mentor. Just seeing Mentor in the books was not something I expected, and after seeing Thanos' method of resolution with him, my only question is why didn't he do it sooner?

This is going to be really strange, but I have to ask about Corvus and Proxima. They are minor in the grand scheme of Marvel, totally acknowledge this, but I got a kick out of how they were one of the few Happily Married trope-bearers in Marveldom. Not just for villains, for all characters major and minor.

And seeing how Corvus was lording it up alone in THANOS #1, and how Proxima in UNWORTHY THOR #3 makes no indication of either missing or even caring that Corvus has probably died by then (I'm not sure about the timeline of events between the two books...).

I mean, did the rebooted universe split up the two of them? I find that a real pity, I thought their being actually a pretty non-dysfunctional couple was part of the subversion, and gave them a few interesting interactions at least. Because from what I gleaned, it seems like Proxima and Black Swan ended up with Thanos after the universe reboot, but Corvus was alone, and prior to THANOS #1, he pretty much set up shop while the Thanos group was moving through the universe from whatever point they resurrected.

It is really a minor point, and I think 'cause I'm a romantic and pretty tired of how relationships in Marvel comics tend to be, I did in fact really like them together. And Corvus' last thought during SECRET WARS was about Proxima. There's sincerity there, and I wish that was kept through the universe reboot.

Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe Proxima didn't know where Corvus was, and still doesn't know he's dead. Or maybe she just is more loyal to Thanos, and doesn't care that her husband is dead. I wish that would not be the case.

Thanks if you have read this far. Apologies if it went on a tangent, but I just wish some minor characters, villainous or heroic, were left to be happy.

Regards,
Sam

Thanks for writing in, Sam! And these are great questions! I don't have answers for you, but I think you should be heartened by that rather than discouraged. Corvus and Proxima as a couple was interesting and pretty unique, and I think there could be a great story either explaining their apparent split or putting them back together. In our infinite universe, maybe some writer will pick up that thread.

Just finished issue #3, when I heard Thanos say who he was looking for, my eyes lit up. His father! Wow. Lemire is doing great things picking up after Hickman ran the main Avengers story and INFINITY arc, all that...I had to cut back my comics as of late (sad face), but after reading ULTIMATES, this series follows up wonderfully! I am surprisingly enjoying Deodato's art, which I never knew from Marvel comics. Quick question: Have Thanos' birth parents or origin ever been shown? Anyway, I cannot wait for issue #4. I think I see Thane there on the cover.

Nothin' but love from
Nick Dallas from Philadelphia

Nick! Happy to hear that THANOS made it onto your reduced-size comics roster. Maybe I'm misunderstanding your question, but if not, you're in luck, because it means you get to read Jason Aaron and Simone Bianchi's THANOS RISING for the first time, which tells the story of Thanos being born to Mentor and Sui-San of Titan. And lots of your fellow readers have extensive Thanos knowledge and opinions. (Tha-know-it-alls, I call you affectionately.) What else should Nick and others who want to know more about Thanos' origins check out?

Hey Kathleen and the THANOS team!

Please call this letters section "Infinity Gauntletters." If you don't call it Infinity Gauntletters, then whatever you do call it had better be even better than "Infinity Gauntletters." I can't imagine what that could possibly be. Thank you.

Also, the creative team is doing a very, very, very good job on this book. I think Deodato draws the best Thanos I've ever seen and the only Pip I've ever liked. Lemire's narration is a rare treat: very Starlin but also very much its own thing. To my knowledge, Jeff rarely writes with third-person. I'm glad he broke routine for this book. It fits.

Pop quiz for the readers, what kind of films do you think Thanos would like? I've been revisiting a lot of Rainer Werner Fassbinder lately, and I thought maybe a film with a title like *Love Is Colder Than Death* might make it into the Sanctuary blu-ray collection.

Thanos forever,
Eli Boonin-Vail
Watertown, MA

Yeah! Chime in, guys! Let's all watch Thanos' probable favorite movies and get SAD! *The Seventh Seal* is probably on that list, right? Eli, "Infinity Gauntletters" is pristine pun work, but I hesistate to use that title for an arc that moves on from INFINITY GAUNTLET-related material pretty quickly? I really should pick a letter column title soon, though. It's hard to make decisions.

It's also hard to say goodbye, but there are partings you can't avoid. So many of you have rightly gushed over the art in the first six issues of THANOS--Mike Deodato Jr. and Frank Martin are always an amazing team, but they were an amazingly harmonious fit here. We are sad to lose them, but very fortunate to have had them set the tone for THANOS (and to keep Deodato on for our covers). Check them out on OLD MAN LOGAN!

Luckily, we also get to welcome Germán Peralta and Rachelle Rosenberg to art duties as of this issue! Pathos! Fire and darkness! Mugrats! They've done a brilliant job, and I think the next issue is even better. Let us know if you agree!

See you next month!

Kathleen

NEXT MONTH:

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